

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6606

INFO NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2053

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OCLR, CA

SUBJECT: EXPERIMENTAL BALLON FLIGHTS

REF: DEPT A-3629

FOR OES/SCI/SA-MORRIS

NSF FOR DR. TESI

1. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH IT IS BELIEVED MAY SERVE BOTH THE REQUIREMENT FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH PROMPTED DRAFT MOU. TECHNICAL DETAILS AS SPECIFIED IN DEPT'S A-3629 DELETED FOR BREVITY.
BEGIN TEXT:

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO ITS NOTE NO. 119 OF JULY 15, 1974, AND TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, AND OFFICIALS OF THE EMBASSY AND THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BALLOON FACILITY (NSBF) OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (NRAR). THE EMBASSY IS PLEASED TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT THAT PLANS ARE ENTERING INTO THEIR FINAL STAGE FOR THIS YEAR'S SERIES OF COOPERATIVE BALLOON LAUNCHES. IF THE PROGRAM PROCEEDS AS IT IS BEING PLANNED, THE ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR WILL BE CONSIDERABLY MORE EXTENSIVE THAN THOSE OF LAST YEAR AND WILL INVOLVE LAUNCHES FOR TWO DIFFERENT CANADIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH.

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DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. A TOTAL OF SIX LAUNCHES ARE BEING PLANNED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) FOUR LAUNCHES FOR THE ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WOULD BE MADE TO STUDY THE CHEMISTRY OF THE STRATOSPHERE BY MAKING COORDINATED MEASUREMENTS OF STRATOSPHERIC TRACE GASES, E.G., OZONE NITROUS OXIDE, NITRIC ACID, WATER, HYDROCHLORIC ACID, AND OTHER PARAMETERS SUCH AS THE SOLAR ULTRAVIOLET FLUX. A TOTAL OF TWELVE EXPERIMENTS WOULD BE FLOWN IN THESE FOUR FLIGHTS AND WOULD REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF RESEARCHERS

FROM THE ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE AND THE UNIVERSITIES OF TORONTO, SASKATCHEWAN, YORK, AND CALGARY.

(2) ONE LAUNCH WOULD BE MADE FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY WHICH WOULD INVOLVE AN EXPERIMENT UTILIZING A SOLAR BIAxIAL POINTING CONTROL AND TELESCOPE COUPLED TO A MICHELSON INTERFERMOMETER TO DETECT AND MEASURE THE FAR INFRARED SPECTRUM OF THE SUN TO A HIGH DEGREE OF RESOLUTION.

(3) FINALLY, ONE FLIGHT WOULD BE FLOWN FOR NCAR AND WOULD INVOLVE A CRYOGENIC AIR SAMPLER DESIGNED TO INHALE SIXTEEN SAMPLES OF STRATOSPHERIC AIR AT VARIOUS ALTITUDES FROM 35 TO 45 KILOMETERS. THE COLLECTED SAMPLES WOULD BE ANALYZED TO DETERMINE THE CONCENTRATION OF TRACE GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE.

B. FLIGHT PARAMETERS FOR THE SIX FLIGHTS DESCRIBED ABOVE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) FOR THE ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE:

(AS SPECIFIED IN AIRGRAM)

(2) FOR NCAR:

(AS SPECIFIED IN AIRGRAM)

(3) FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY:

(AS SPECIFIED IN AIRGRAM)

C. LOGISITC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) AN EXPERIENCED LAUNCH TEAM FROM THE NSBF WOULD CONDUCT THE LAUNCHES.

(2) APPROXIMATELY 415,000 FT³ OF HELIUM WOULD BE EXPENDED FOR THE BALLOON FLIGHTS. THIS GAS WOULD BE DELIVERED BY TRUCKS AND TRAILERS TO THE LAUNCH SITE FROM THE U.S. WHEN REQUIRED.

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KEL VEHICLES:

(A) A SPECIAL BALLOON LAUNCH VEHICLE WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO CANADA FROM THE U.S. AND RETURNED.

(B) TWO TRUCK TRACTORS AND FLATBED TRAILERS WOULD MOVE BALLOONS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TO THE LAUNCH SITE FROM THE U.S. AND RETURN.

(C) A TRUCK TRACTOR WOULD MOVE ONE TELEMETRY TRAILER FROM THE U.S. TO THE LAUNCH SITE AND RETURN.

(D) OTHER VEHICLES REQUIRED IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM
WOULD BE LEASED IN CANADA.

(E) ALL VEHICLES MOVED FROM THE UNITED STATES TO
CANADA AND RETURNED WOULD BE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND OF
U.S. REGISTRATION.

D. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAUNCHES, THE NSBF WOULD FURNISH
BALLOON CONTROL INSTRUMENTATION AND TELEMETRY. USE OF THE
FOLLOWING FREQUENCIES WOULD BE REQUIRED: (AS SPECIFIED IN
AIRGRAM)

E. IN ORDER TO TRACK THE BALLOONS, ONE TWIN-ENGINED AIRCRAFT,
EQUIPPED WITH SPECIALIZED BALLOON CONTROL AND TRACKING EQUIPMENT
WOULD BE REQUIRED AND WOULD BE SUPPLIED BY NSBF. (NEED REGISTRY
NUMBER, MAKE, AND NUMBER OF CREW.)

F. PRELIMINARY METEOROLOGICAL STUDIES INDICATE THAT THE WIND FIELD
AT FLOAT ALTITUDES WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 100 DEGREES AT 25
KNOTS (HEADING 280 DEGREES). ALL FLIGHTS WOULD BE TERMINATED EAST
OF A NORTH-SOUTH LINE CONNECTING EDMONTON AND CALGARY,
REGARDLESS OF UPPER AIR WINDS AT FLOAT ALTITUDES. THE NSBF WOULD
OBTAIN SURFACE WEATHER DATA FROM SELECTED CANADIAN METEOROLOGICAL
STATIONS FOR FORECASTING PURPOSES. ALSO, HIGH ALTITUDE RADIOSONDE
BALLONS AND RAWINSONDE GROUND EQUIPMENT WOULD BE PROVIDED BY
THE NSBF AT THE LAUNCH SITE FOR UPPER AIR WIND INFORMATION.
THIS EQUIPMENT WOULD BE OPERATED BY MEMBERS OF THE ATMOSPHERIC
ENVIRONMENT SERVICE.

G. THE PROPOSED LAUNCH SITE IS YORKTON AIRPORT, YORKTON,
SASKATCHEWAN.

H. SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS ARE FOR THE FLIGHTS TO BEGIN DURING
THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY. INDIVIDUAL BALLOONS WOULD BE LAUNCHED
AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR-DAY INTERVALS UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE
PROGRAM. IN THE EVENT OF DELAYS DUE TO SURFACE WEATHER OR
PREPARATION OF SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT THE PROGRAM WOULD BE TERMINATED
BY AUGUST 30 REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF FLIGHTS FLOWN.

I. ALL LAUNCHES WOULD BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONDITIONS
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SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF AIR
TRAFFIC IN CANADIAN AIR SPACE.

J. VEHICLES WHICH WOULD BE USED TO SUPPORT THE FLIGHT PROGRAM
AND THE ANTICIPATED DATE OF THEIR ARRIVAL AT PORT OF ENTRY ARE
AS FOLLOWS:

VEHICLE	USG REGISTRATION NO.	APPROXIMATE DATE OF ENTRY
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(DETAILS WILL BE INCLUDED IN FINAL NOTE)

K. TENTATIVE PLANS ARE FOR ALL VEHICLES TO ENTER AND EXIT
CANADA VIA (PORT OF ENTRY).

L. THE COOPERATING SCIENTISTS PLAN TO SHARE FULLY THE DATA COLLECTED
IN THIS SERIES OF FLIGHTS.

M. AS IN LAST YEAR'S LAUNCHES, NCAR RESPONSIBILITY SHALL BE LIMITED
TO CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PERSONS WITH RESPECT

TO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NCAR FLIGHT AND/OR ITS EMPLOYEES FOR WHICH NCAR HAS INSURANCE COVERAGE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, INSURANCE HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT TO COVER RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH BALLOON FLIGHT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION U.S. DOLLARS (\$20,000,000) AND RISKS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH EACH FLIGHT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE MILLION U.S. DOLLARS (\$5,000,000).

THE EMBASSY THEREFORE HAS THE HONOR:

A. TO REQUEST (1) APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR THE ONE FLIGHT IN THE ABOVE PROPOSED SERIES TO BE FLOWN FOR THE NCAR, AND (2) EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS AND DUTIES FOR ALL MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR THE ENTIRE FLIGHT SERIES. ALL MATERIAL OR EQUIPMENT THAT IS NOT CONSUMED IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING THESE FLIGHTS WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE U.S. AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM UNLESS SOME OTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DISPOSITION IS AGREED UPON BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE EMBASSY.

B. TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, ACTING IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, WILL BE SEEKING, THROUGH CANADIAN DOMESTIC CHANNELS, APPROPRIATE APPROVALS FOR THE CANADIAN-SPONSORED FLIGHTS.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE). END OF TEXT

2. DEPT AND NSF WILL NOTE THAT SUBPARA M ABOVE HAS BEEN TAKEN VERBATIM

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FROM DRAFT MOU. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, FIRST SENTENCE IS OBSCURE. WITHOUT BENEFIT LEGAL ADVICE, WE WOULD PREFER IF POSSIBLE REDRAFT THIS SENTENCE TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "AS IN LAST YEAR'S LAUNCHES, NCAR RESPONSIBILITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO CLAIMS FOR DAMAGED PROPERTY OR INJURY TO PERSONS AS A RESULT OF ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THIS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TO THAT FOR WHICH NCAR HAS INSURANCE COVERAGE." SECOND SENTENCE SUBPARA M WOULD REMAIN AS IS.

3. IF DIPLOMATIC NOTE USED FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL AND TO MEET MOU REQUIREMENTS, THEN NCAR WOULD GIVE SUPPLY AND SERVICES LETTER CONTAINING COST ESTIMATE AS WAS CONTAINED IN MOU. SUPPLY AND SERVICE WOULD THEN ENDORSE COST ESTIMATE NOTING THAT IT WAS SUBJECT TO EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND ISSUE STANDARD GOC PURCHASE ORDER.

4. NOTE ALONG ABOVE LINES WILL BE REQUIRED WHETHER OR NOT MOU UTILIZED. ACCORDINGLY, FOLLOWING ACTION REQUESTED;

A. PLEASE ADVISE ANY CHANGES DESIRED IN NOTE.

B. AUTHORIZE DELIVERY OF NOTE ASAP.

C. IN REPLYING, PLEASE INDICATE IF NOTE IS TO SERVE DUAL PURPOSE OR IF SEPARATE MOU WILL BE REQUIRED.

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